Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EG, UN, IS, PLO, XF
SUBJECT:POSSIBLE LAUNCHING OF ARAB CAMPAIGN TO OUST ISRAEL FROM UNGA AT ISLAMIC CONFERENCE CONFIDENTIAL
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REF: A) STATE 157805; B) CAIRO 6528; C) USUN 3212

GENEVA PASS TO MOYNIHAN

FOR AMBASSADOR

- 1. YOU SHOULD CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER AND MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MUHAMMAD RIAD, AS RIAD (REFTEL B) WILL HEAD GOE DELEGATION TO JIDDA CONFERENCE, TO EXPRESS TO THEM US VIEWS ON POSSIBILITY THAT DECISION MAY BE TAKEN AT ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING, SCHEDULED FOR JIDDA, JULY 12-15, ON LAUNCHING CAMPAIGN TO SUSPEND ISRAEL FROM 30TH UNGA. TO UNDERLINE SERIOUSNESS OF OUR CONCERN ON PROBLEM, YOU SHOULD SPECIFICALLY ASK FAHMY TO BRING THEM TO PERSONAL ATTENTION OF SADAT.
- 2. YOU SHOULD SAY THAT US HOPES THAT REPORT THAT WE HAVE HEARD THAT A DECISION TO LAUNCH SUCH A CAMPAIGN AT JIDDA MEETING IS INACCURATE, AND THAT ISSUE WILL NOT BE RAISED. HOWEVER, THEY DO UNDERSTAND HOW SERIOUSLY WE TAKE MATTER.

AND THAT WE ARE SUFFICIENTLY CONCERNED TO MAKE OUR VIEWS KNOWN CLEARLY IN ADVANCE OF SUCH A POSSIBILITY. US APPRECIATES USEFUL CONSULTATIONS ON ISSUE BETWEEN USUN AND EGYPTIAN MISSION AT UN, AND WE WANT EGYPTIANS TO KNOW THAT WE ARE MAKING DEMARCHES TO RABAT, TUNIS, ALGIERS, JIDDA, AMMAN, AND DAMASCUS ON THIS ISSUE.

3. US DEMARCHES INCLUDE FOLLOWING POINTS: US STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE SUSPENSION OR EXCLUSION OF ISRAEL FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE AND FOR THE SAKE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AS WELL AS FROM THE PRACTICAL STANDPOINT THAT SUCH A MOVE MIGHT VIRTUALLY BRING TO A HALT FURTHER NEGOTIATING EFFORTS FOR A PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE US FEELS THAT THE ISSUE SHOULD NOT EVEN COME BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND IS CONCERNED LEST INITIATIVES TAKEN ON THIS ISSUE COULD SET IN MOTION A CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT WOULD BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP OR DIVERT. EVEN THOUGH IT MAY NOT BE EASY TO RESIST PROPOSALS IN FAVOR OF SUCH A MOVE AT JIDDA, DOING SO WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL

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A SMALL EFFORT COMPARED TO THE POLITICAL PRICE THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE PAID TO STOP IT LATER SOME MIGHT THINK OF SUCH AN INITIATIVE AS A MANEUVERABLE PRESSURE DEVICE BUT IT COULD WELL GET OUT OF THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO SHARE OUR DESIRE FOR FURTHER PROGRESS IN THE PEACEFUL SEARCH FOR A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, AND INTO THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO REJECT THIS COURSE.

- 4. SHOULD IT BE EXCLUDED FROM THE GA, ISRAEL COULD WELL ARGUE THAT IT WAS NO LONGER BOUND BY UN RESOLUTIONS, INCLUDING RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 344 WHICH ARE, RESPECTIVELY, THE AGREED BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.
- 5. EVEN MORE FUNDAMENTAL, ACTION TO SUSPEND ISRAEL FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WOULD UNDERCUT THOSE IN THE US AND EUROPE, NOT TO MENTION THOSE IN ISRAEL, WHO ARE WORKING FROM THE PREMISE THAT LEADING ARAB GOVERNMENTS ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT ISRAEL AND MAKE PEACE. PUBLIC REACTION TO SUCH A MOVE IN THE WEST WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY WEAKEN THE UN, PERHAPS BEYOND REPAIR, WITHOUT MAKING ANY CONTRIBUTION TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST; IN REALITY THE END RESULT WOULD MAKE ANY PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE INFINITELY MORE DIFFICULT AND THE DRIFT TO WAR MUCH MORE LIKELY.
- 6. WE HOPE EGYPTIANS WILL BE WILLING TO USE THEIR INFLUENCE WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS AT JIDDA TO PREVENT SUCH AN INITIATIVE BEING TAKEN ON THE SUSPENSION ISSUE. DEPENDING ON FAHMY'S WISHES, OR AMBASSADORS COULD BE INSTRUCTED TO CONSULT WITH THEIR EGYPTIAN COLLEAGUES ON APPROACHES. WHILE WE LEAVE BEST METHODS TO EGYPTIANS, WE HOPE THEY WILL PLAY LEADING ROLE IN ASSURING DESIRABLE OUTCOME ON MATTER. INGERSOLL

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